



Wanda Haney of South Portland held off two challengers.

Haney Wanda 05 1989

MEMBER PROFILE

WANDA HANEY BINETTE

Wanda is our Maine Track Club 1989 Outstanding Runner (female, open). It was a long road for her. She thinks all of us in MTC deserve some of the credit. Although Brian Gillespie and Carol Weeks stand out, Bob Jolicœur, Jane Dofley and Don Penta especially helped her. But we all did, she says. We are "like a family." We were "nice people to cheer you on." And in the early years she needed that.

When Wanda was 13 she lost her mother and went through a pretty rough period. She reports being "always in trouble" with teachers and the like. Then, in 6th grade, she went out for the track team and became serious about it in Junior High School. This is when Brian Gillespie entered the scene as coach, confident and inspirational. At about the same time, Carol Weeks (our top 40+ runner herself) took Wanda under her wing, giving her confidence. In addition, she "helped a lot with attitude and ability to talk to people."

Wanda found that "running was my thing, it went really great." In her senior year in High School she was undefeated in Cross Country and won the State 800 (2:20) and the mile (5:20).

After graduation Wanda was free to run in MTC races which she "won every now and then." She always wanted to win the Boys Club race and one of the high points to her was when she did exactly that this year in 30:15. She was also very excited about her 22:37 PR at our 4 mile Turkey Trot.

Not long ago, Adrian Wadsworth, President of the Maine Association of The Athletics Congress, conceived the idea of a Maine TAC racing team. They were entered in the Frieboffs Run for Women on May 5, 1990 in Albany, New York. This race was certified as the National 5K Road Racing Championship, which attracted some of the best

female runners in the country. A team consisted of seven runners with the top three scoring for the team. Due to injuries, only Edie Dubord, Tina Meserve and Wanda toed the starting line. They placed third of 27 teams from all over the country, just seven seconds out of second place. Wanda won \$100 and the women voted that Wanda should keep the crystal bowl.

Wanda married Scott Binette and very soon thereafter they had to set up temporary quarters in Orono while he finished graduate school in engineering. His new job caused them to move recently to Plainsboro, New Jersey. A 400 runner in school, Scott has now started running with Wanda on some of her training runs. Meanwhile, she is working in a New Jersey supermarket. This means lots of weekend hours, which restricts her ability to run as many local races as she would like.

Wanda's goal is to someday be the best female runner in Maine. Her dream is to qualify for the Olympic Trials. Coach Gillespie says "why not?" All the women who are faster than Wanda are older than she. Besides, Wanda has been brought along slowly, which doubtless accounts for her lack of injuries. She has been training for distances in the 5000 area and has started working with weights. "This program of slow progression requires time to change the body." At age 24, she has not reached her potential and Coach Gillespie would not be surprised by a significant improvement.

So, while Wanda is effusive about what we have done for her, perhaps it could be mentioned that she has done a lot for all of us. Her achievements bring us all credit. After all, we are "family."

John Woods

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